



Special Education Programs

SPED PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

2018 Child Count Insights and how to prepare for 2019

Child count has successfully ended for 2018. We would like to thank the districts for your assistance in entering student data and cleaning up the errors.

Things to keep in mind when you enter data into Campus and prepare for 2019 child count:

- Special Education Records—be sure to end a student's special education record prior to starting a new one.
- Therapy Hours - Students who have therapy hours listed on their IEP those hours must be entered into Campus.
- Autism Spectrum Disorder Levels—districts will be required to enter the severity levels into campus beginning Fall 2019.
- December 1st falls on a Sunday and the Thanksgiving holiday is on the 28th, so be prepared to have IEP meetings prior to and IEPs implemented prior to Thanksgiving break.

MSAA Testing Window is opening March 13 and closes May 3, 2019 at 8pm ET.

If district testing coordinators have not gotten into the MSAA site, or are having difficulty, please contact Stacey Meyer at (605)-773-3219 or at Stacey.meyer@state.sd.us. Testing coordinators (TCs) must do the training modules before giving access to testing administrators (TAs). There is no quiz for TCs but the TAs must pass a quiz with 80% before going further into the site. The site went live on March 4th and testing coordinators were uploaded. Emails were then sent to the TCs. Please check your email and start the training modules so you are ready to begin testing.

DOE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

SBAC testing window open March 6 - May 3

The Smarter Balanced testing window is open March 6 - May 3 for all tested grade levels (grades 3-8 and 11). Find more information on the [Department of Education's Office of Assessment website](#). Check announcements on the [Smarter Balanced portal](#) for updates.

Early learning report now available. Late last year, the department partnered with School Administrators of South Dakota to develop and disseminate a survey aimed at learning more about the landscape of preschool programming efforts in South Dakota as they currently exist. The [results of that survey](#) are now available online.

Abilities Dedication
Acceptance
Inclusion Evolving
Independence
Special Access
Individual Success
Unique Education
Accommodating Integration
Hope Achieve
Opportunity Challenges
Participation
Understanding

SPED STAFF:

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[Kristin Jerome](#), Secretary

[Regional Representative List](#)

Contact: 605.773.3678

NEXT SPED DIRECTOR CALL:

April 16th, 2019 - 10am CST

Connect through Adobe Connect:

<https://taese.adobeconnect.com/sdta>

Teleconference Line: 888-387-8686
Participant code: 7757975

Agenda Items:

- ◆ Federal Part B Budget
- ◆ ECF
- ◆ Perkins
- ◆ District grant application

SPED PROGRAM FEATURE PRESENTATION

CONGRATS TO OUR PARENT NOMINATED SPECIAL EDUCATION STAFF OF THE YEAR!



- Abigail Burgard-Aberdeen
- Angie Mulder— Project Search
- Basil Knebel-Langford
- Brenda Bernard— Sioux Falls
- Carolyn Schuldies-Meade
- Cindy Anderson— Bon Homme
- Darcie Langbehn— Wolsey-Wessington
- Deb Cross— Crazy Horse
- Jennifer Gross— West Central
- Judy Unrich-Custer
- Kathryn Rick-Sioux Falls
- Kelsey Weismantel-Eureka
- Kyle Babb-Brandon
- Norma Brown Bull— Little Wound HS
- Shae Stephenson-Faulton
- Shannon Merkouris— Sioux Falls
- Tamela Gilbery-BHSSC
- Teri Jensen-Brandon
- Marla Skadsen-Sioux Falls
- Jill Joyce-Hazard— Sioux Falls
- Beth Lopes-SDSBVI



**Awarded to
Shannon
Merkouris.
Congratulations!**

Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to the children of South Dakota. We appreciate all you do every day to ensure the best education for your students.

FEDERAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

A federal judge ruled against Education Departments decision to delay Significant Disproportionality

Edweek blog by Christina Samuels states:

"The U.S. Department of Education made an "arbitrary and capricious" decision when it [decided last year to delay an Obama-era rule](#) that would closely examine how minority students are identified and served in special education, a federal judge in Washington ruled Thursday.

U.S. District Court Judge Tanya Chutkan's [decision](#) vacates the Education Department's delaying action because it violates the Administrative Procedure Act, which governs how federal agencies propose and implement regulations."

To read the full article please visit: [Edweek Blog](#)

What does this mean for South Dakota?

SEP developed a plan for implementation. Currently we are running data to identify districts that would be identified so that they can begin to make changes, so that when Significant Disproportionality is in effect they reduce their chances of being identified. Further information can be found on our website at

<https://doe.sd.gov/sped/Disproportionality.aspx>.

SPED PROGRAMS STAFF HIGHLIGHT



Kristin Jerome

Secretary for Special Education Programs and Birth to Three

Email: kristin.jerome@state.sd.us

Phone: 605.773.3678

I was born and raised in Pierre, graduated in 1991 and I lived here until 2005 when I moved to Fargo, ND. While living in Fargo, I worked for Microsoft as

the Federal Software Representative and owned and operated a successful pizza restaurant. After selling that business in 2012, I moved back to South Dakota and lived in the beautiful Black Hills where I worked as a Special Education Para. After 6 years I decided to move back home and I was fortunate enough to land a position with the Department of Education. I started in December of 2018. I help with daily operations, book travel, schedule events and trainings, and anything else that is needed.

I live here with my friend Donald, his son Blake, who is 16, my youngest son Nicholas, who is going to be 14 this month, two cats, Hans and Franz, and our dog Zip. My oldest son, Austin, lives in Fort Collins, CO and he is going to be 28 this month.

I enjoy paddle boarding, waterskiing, snow skiing, snowshoeing, boating, bicycling . . . honestly, I enjoy anything outdoors! I like to spend time doing these things with my family and friends.



COLLEGE, CAREER AND LIFE READY
PREPARING SOUTH DAKOTA STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

(Click on the titles to go to the registration site)

2019 Summer Institute

Building Quality Lives...
Living. Learning. Working

June 13-14, 2019
Arrowwood Resort at Cedar Shores,
Oacoma, SD

The Summer Institute provides high school special educators and directors valuable information regarding transition to adulthood issues for students with disabilities. Continuing credits and graduate credits pending.

Featured Speaker, Karen Haase, will present on legal issues in transition. Other sessions will cover project skills, transition resources, mental health issues, supported decision-making.

Registrations due May 25th (see attached flyer).

Registration fee of \$75 with \$25 off if you highlight your transition program. Graduate credits available as well as CEUs.

Catch the Wave

One day Catch the Wave events are designed specifically for high school students who have a disability and are considering post secondary education at a college or technical institute. A \$5 per person registration is required. Register by contacting the [TSLP Representative](#) sponsoring the event.

- Feb 20—Sinte Gleska U; Mission—Dave
- Mar 28—SDSU, Brookings—Bev
- Apr 2—BHSU, Rapid City—Dave
- Apr 3—NSU, Aberdeen—Cindy
- Apr 10—MTI, Mitchell—Jenny

2019 MTSS Summer Conference

June 11-12, 2019
Arrowwood Resort at Cedar Shores, Oacoma, SD

Registration is now open!

Day one of this year's conference will feature Dr. Terry Scott. [Click here](#) to watch one of Dr. Scott's previous trainings

Day two will feature Dr. Karen Kemp from the 95% group.

Please contact Rebecca.cain@state.sd.us with any questions.

Save the Dates:

Northern Plains Law Conference

September 30—October 2nd, 2019
Bismarck, ND
Registration opens in May!

IEP Workshop Dates and Registration will be announced soon.

DOE RESOURCES

Post-School Outcomes Website

The post school outcomes website posts statewide information on the survey results that students have provided one year after graduation. This includes the percent of students attending higher education or other postsecondary education or training; participation in competitive employment, including the number of hours worked per week; and the percent of those not employed.

Districts can use a login and password to access their district information. This information can be used to help make programming and planning decision to improve education and transition services for students. There are 7 years worth of data which helps those small districts that may not have many students in a given year completing the survey.

There is a 'forgot your username or password' link to help district get into the secured section of the website.

If districts aren't seeing much data in the system, it may be due to students not completing the survey. District can volunteer to help collect this information. Just contact Beth.Schiltz@state.sd.us.